



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,009	03/10/2004	Matthew D. Garratt	01-3177 (370004-00028)	4942

8840 7590 08/10/2004

ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT, LLC  
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER  
100 TECHNICAL DRIVE  
ALCOA CENTER, PA 15069-0001

EXAMINER

ZIMMERMAN, JOHN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1775

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/798,009	Applicant(s) GARRATT ET AL.	
	Examiner John J. Zimmerman	Art Unit 1775	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on election received 7/12/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 35-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-34, in the correspondence received July 12, 2004 is acknowledged. The applicants "traverse" the restriction requirements but provide no reasons for traversal. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 35-37 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. No information disclosure statement has reached the file of this application as of the mailing date of this Office Action. The documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (filed February 19, 2003) in applicant's parent application Serial No. 10/286,937 have been reviewed and those documents have been cited on the enclosed form PTO-892 in order to introduce them into this application's prosecution. No copies of the cited documents on the form PTO-892 have been provided with this Office Action, however, since the cited documents were of record in the parent application.

Art Unit: 1775

### ***Double Patenting***

3. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

4. A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

5. Claims 1-3 and 15-33 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-3 and 15-33 of copending Application No. 10/286,937. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. Changing the claims of the copending application to be distinct from the claims of this application, or expressed abandonment of the copending application would overcome this rejection.

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 4-14 and 34 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4-14 and 34 of copending Application No. 10/286,937. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because configuration "structural ribs" (used in the claims of the copending application) is a species covered by the genus "structural stiffening members" of this pending application. There is no patentable distinction between the two sets of claims because it would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that, in the field of the present invention, structural ribs are a conventional and obvious type of stiffening member. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. Changing the claims of the copending application to be distinct from the claims of this application, or expressed abandonment of the copending application would overcome this rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1775

10. In claim 28, it is unclear if the limitation "containing lithium" belongs to all members of the Markush group or only the 8xxx alloys. Clarification is required. For purposes of claim interpretation in the following rejections, the claims will be given the reasonable interpretation of the 8xxx alloy contains lithium. See MPEP 2111.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103***

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 1775

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-15, 17-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Armanie (U.S. Patent 6,113,711).

14. Armanie discloses an extruded structural member (e.g. see Figures 1-2 and claim 7 for extruded profile with a local geometry promoting axisymmetric metal flow and ribs formed between other structural ribs; see column 1, lines 53-58, for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure exhibiting fiber texture; see column 4, line 40 - column 5, line 15, for alloy compositions; see paragraph spanning columns 5 and 6 for inclusion of lithium and improved fracture toughness of the alloy). The axisymmetric metal flow of Armanie would promote  $\langle 100 \rangle$  and  $\langle 111 \rangle$  fiber components. Although Armanie may not recite "intentionally" increasing amounts of fiber texture, the process of Armanie has the same steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the reference may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the

Art Unit: 1775

instant claims, the compositions of the reference clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the reference overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05. Regarding the issue of recrystallization, Armanie shows recognition in the art of unrecrystallized microstructures (e.g. see column 1, lines 53-58, for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure exhibiting fiber texture) and only "preferably" includes further heat treatments that might affect the extruded microstructure (e.g. see column 5, lines 52-59). Regarding the process language in the article claims (e.g. see claims 7, 8), when there is a substantially similar product, as in the applied prior art, the burden of proof is shifted to the applicant to establish that their product is patentably distinct not the examiner to show that the same process of making, see *In re Brown*, 173 U.S.P.Q. 685, and *In re Fessmann*, 180 U.S.P.Q. 324. Regarding the specific rib shapes of claims 9-13, these are conventional rib shapes in the stringer art and therefore they would have been considered obvious variations on the rib shapes of Armanie's illustrative Figure 1 because Armanie specifically is making members for aircraft construction (e.g. see column 1, lines 10-13). Regarding claim 19, Armanie's illustrated ribs appear to meet the aspect ratio of the claim.



Art Unit: 1775

While it is understood that the ribs of Armanie may not be drawn to exact scale, it would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the ribs should be any aspect ratio that allows performance of their structural function.

15. Claims 1-2, 15, 17, 19-24, 26, 28, 30, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sugio (Japanese publication 04-022508) in view of Armanie (U.S. Patent 6,113,711).

16. Sugio discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see Figures 1-2 for the extruded profile with a local geometry of about a 1.0 aspect ratio promoting axisymmetric metal flow; see page 2 of the translation for 2000, 5000 and 7000 system alloy compositions). The axisymmetric metal flow of Sugio promotes <100> and <111> fiber components (e.g. see page 3 of the translation). Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the reference may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the reference clearly have points within

Art Unit: 1775

applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the reference overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05. Although Sugio may not discuss whether the extruded profile is substantially unrecrystallized, Armanie shows that if Sugio exhibits fiber texture from axisymmetric extrusion, it would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to be unrecrystallized (e.g. column 1, lines 55-58, of Armanie).

17. Claims 1-2, 15, 17-18, 20-26, 28, 30, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Liu (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/00200501).

18. Liu discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see Figure 4 for unrecrystallized extruded profile with a local geometry promoting axisymmetric metal flow; see paragraphs [0044]-[0048] for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure; see paragraphs [0003] and [0014]-[0016] for alloy compositions). The axisymmetric metal flow of Liu would promote <100> and <111> fiber components. Although Liu may not recite "intentionally" increasing amounts of fiber texture,

Art Unit: 1775

the process of Liu has the same steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the reference may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the reference clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the reference overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

Art Unit: 1775

19. Claims 1-2, 15, 17-18, 20-26, 28, 30, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Liu (U.S. Patent 6,325,869).

20. Liu discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see Figure 4 for unrecrystallized extruded profile with a local geometry promoting axisymmetric metal flow; see column 7, line 24 - column 8, line 21, for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure; see column 1, lines 25-67, and column 2, lines 35-66, for alloy compositions). The axisymmetric metal flow of Liu would promote  $\langle 100 \rangle$  and  $\langle 111 \rangle$  fiber components. Although Liu may not recite "intentionally" increasing amounts of fiber texture, the process of Liu has the same steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the reference may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the reference clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 1775

the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the reference overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

21. Claims 1-2, 15, 17-18, 20-26, 28, 30, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Karabin (U.S. Patent 5,863,359).

22. Karabin discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see column 5, lines 13-15 for unrecrystallized extruded stringer; see column 9, lines 20-24 for stringer profiles having a geometry promoting axisymmetric metal flow; see columns 1 and 2 for alloy compositions). The axisymmetric metal flow of the extruded stringer profiles of Karabin would promote  $\langle 100 \rangle$  and  $\langle 111 \rangle$  fiber components. Although Karabin may not recite "intentionally" increasing amounts of fiber texture, the process of Karabin has the same steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess

Art Unit: 1775

characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the reference may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the reference clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the reference overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

23. Claims 1-2, 15, 17, 20-23, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Takemoto (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0043640).

Art Unit: 1775

24. Takemoto discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see paragraph [0042] for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure; see paragraphs [0028]-[0035] for compositions). The extruded member of Takemoto is further machined (e.g. see paragraph [0038]). The extruded metal flow of Takemoto would promote <100> and <111> fiber components. The fiber structure of the claims would be present in Takemoto in view of the fact that Takemoto follows similar steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the reference may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the reference clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the reference overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges

Art Unit: 1775

disclosed in the prior art reference, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

25. Claims 1-2, 15, 17, 20-23, 28, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yoshihara (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0014287) or Kawai (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0008165).

26. Yoshihara discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see paragraph [0039] for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure; see paragraphs [0027]-[0038] for compositions; see Figure 1 for extruded shape which would promote asymmetric metal flow). Kawai discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see paragraphs [0014]-[0023] for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure and for compositions; see Figure 1 for extruded shape which would promote asymmetric metal flow). The extruded metal flow of Yoshihara and Kawai would promote <100> and <111> fiber components. The fiber structure of the claims would be present in Takemoto and Kawai in view of the fact that these references follows similar steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden



Art Unit: 1775

of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the references may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the references clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the references overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art references, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

27. Claims 1-2, 15, 17, 20-24, 28, 30 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a,b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamashita (U.S. Patent 6,231,995) or Yamashita (Japanese publication 11-071624).

28. Yamashita '995 discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see column 4, lines 56-60 for discussion on

Art Unit: 1775

unrecrystallized microstructure; see column 2, line 63 - column 3, line 8, for compositions; see Figure 1 for extruded shape with ribs which would promote asymmetric metal flow). Yamashita '624 discloses an extruded structural member having a substantially unrecrystallized microstructure and fiber texture (e.g. see paragraphs [0011] for discussion on unrecrystallized microstructure; see paragraphs [0010]-[0016] for compositions; see Figure 1 for extruded shape with ribs which would promote asymmetric metal flow). The extruded metal flow of the Yamashita references would promote  $\langle 100 \rangle$  and  $\langle 111 \rangle$  fiber components. The fiber structure of the claims would be present in the Yamashita references in view of the fact that these references follows similar steps, compositions and configurations disclosed by applicant to result in increased amounts of fiber texture. Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977). While the references may not teach the exact same alloy composition proportions as recited in the instant claims, the compositions of the references clearly have points within applicants' composition ranges and therefore anticipate the claimed compositions. In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the compositional proportions taught by the references overlap the instantly claimed proportions and therefore are

Art Unit: 1775

considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art references, *In re Peterson* 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003). Also, *In re Geisler* 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

29. Claims 3, 5-6 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowability of these claims, however, is subject to resolution of the pending provisional double patenting and provisional obviousness type double patenting rejections. The prior art of record does not disclose or make obvious the removal of excess metal in the local geometries as suggested by claims 3 and 5-6. The prior art of record does not disclose or make obvious the co-extrusion of claim 16 incorporating the microstructure limitations of claim 1.

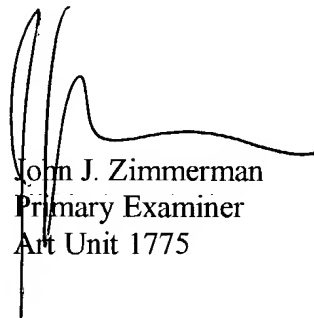
### ***Conclusion***

30. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additionally cited references serve to further establish the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Art Unit: 1775

31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Zimmerman whose telephone number is (571) 272-1547. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm, M-F. Supervisor Deborah Jones can be reached on (571) 272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

32. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John J. Zimmerman  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1775

jjz  
August 6, 2004